## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IAP20 Rec'd FLT/PTO-12 APR 2006

In re Application of:

Docket: ACM 3020

VAN DER HORST, P.M.

Examiner:

U.S. Serial No.: unassigned

Int. Filing Date: October 15, 2004

PCT Appln. No.: PCT/EP2004/011827

**Group Art Unit:** 

For: Use of CMC in Drilling Fluids

**Commissioner for Patents** P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be amended as follows. Entry of the subject amendments prior to the initial examination of the present application on the merits is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.